

EDITH NOURSE ROGERS MEMORIAL  
VETERANS HOSPITAL  
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Hospital Memorandum #11.43  
August 26, 2010

**VISITING HOURS**

I. PURPOSE

To establish hospital visiting hours and guidelines.

II. POLICY

Visitors of inpatients are encouraged to visit the hospital during established visiting hours. These visiting hours are posted throughout the hospital. Visiting hours may be changed for public health and/or other reasons at the discretion of the hospital administration.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Visiting Hours - General

Hospital	1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sunday to Saturday
Community Living Center	11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday to Saturday
GRECC	11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sunday to Saturday
Domiciliary	1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sunday to Saturday
Rogers House	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday to Friday 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday to Sunday
Crescent House	8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., Friday, Saturday, Sunday

- B. Visitors are considered to be relatives, significant others, as well as friends. The definition of "visitor" should be centered on patient preferences and values, allowing patients themselves to determine whom they wish to consider visitors.

C. Visiting Hours - Exceptions

1. Visits to individual patients may be limited or prohibited for therapeutic reasons. Visitors should be instructed to call the ward staff prior to visiting to see if there are any limitations.
2. Children under 15 years of age normally are not permitted to visit on ward areas unless accompanied by an adult. Children under the age of 16 are not allowed on Ward 78G, Acute Inpatient Mental Health Unit, except by special permission from the unit staff.

3. Other hours for visitation can be arranged as necessary if the patient's provider and/or the Nurse Manager determine it would be in the patient's best interest. Providers and/or the Nurse Manager may limit visits if the patient's status warrants.
4. To protect patients from illness, visitors with colds, flu, or other contagious diseases are discouraged, and may be prohibited from visiting.
5. Visitors who bring items/packages to patients on all units may be subject to a search of the items/packages before entering the unit.
6. All visitors are subject to being asked for identification and the purpose of their visit in order to support a safe environment.

#### IV. REFERENCES

Joint Commission Manual, current edition  
VHA (10N) Memorandum Regarding Hospital Visiting Hours, dated July 2010

#### V. RESCISSION

Hospital Memorandum #11.43 dated November 30, 2009.

TAMMY A. FOLLENSBEE  
Director

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